1: Hollis G-5 (ca. 1894-1904) 1905
FL12 Masai FL12

customs of the Masai are both numerous and varied, but comparatively little is known of their language. The following books, which contain either short vocabularies or grammatical notes, are probably all that exist[1].

I. *Vocabulary of the Enguduk Eloikop*, Krapf, Tubingen, 1854.

II. *Vocabulary of the Enguduk Iloigob*, Erhardt, Ludwigsburg, 1857.

III. *Life, Wanderings and Labours in Eastern Africa*, New, London, 1874.

IV. *Nubische Grammatik* (Einleitung), Lepsius, Berlin, 1880.

V. *Massailand-Expedition*, Fischer. (Mittheilungen der geographischen Gesellschaft in Hamburg, 1882-3).

VI. *A Visit to the Masai People*, Last. The Geographical Journal, 1883.

VII. *Die Sprache der Il-Oigob* (die sogenannten Wakuafi und Masai). Grundriss der Sprachwissenschaft (Band III), Müller, Vienna, 1884.

VIII. *Polyglotta Africana orientalis*, Last, London, 1885.

IX. *The Kilima-Njaro Expedition*, Johnston, London, 1886.

X. *Durch Massailand zur Nilquelle*, Baumann, Berlin, 1894.

XI. *Masai Grammar*, Hinde, Cambridge, 1901.

XII. *The Uganda Protectorate*, Johnston, London, 1902.

My endeavour in writing this book has been to place on record some of the thoughts and ideas of the Masai people, before their extinction or their admixture with Bantu elements and contact with civilization renders this an impossibility. The stories, the proverbs, the riddles, the songs, and the account of the customs and beliefs of this interesting people are all given in the words of the relaters themselves.

My thanks are due to Sir C. Eliot for many valuable hints, and for the kindly interest he has shown in my work; to Mr. W. J. Monson for the free translation of the songs and prayers; to Mr. R. J. Stordy and to Saleh bin Ali for the loan of their photographs; and to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and to the officials of the Agricultural and Forestry Departments, East Africa Protectorate, for determining the names of the trees and plants.

In conclusion I wish to pay a tribute of the highest praise to the work of the Church Missionary Society in East Africa.

[1] When this was written Merker's book *Die Masai* (Berlin, 1904) had not been published.

2: Bernardi E, M-4 (no date) 1955 FL12 Masai FL12

[p. 257]

B. BERNARDI I. M. C.

THE AGE-SYSTEM OF THE MASAI

000

I. Introduction and bibliography. – II. Tribal divisions and other social elements of the Masai. – III. Preliminaries to the institution of the age-class. – IV. Individual initiation. – V. The age-units and their mutual relationship. – VI. The final institution of the age-unit. – VII. The internal structure of the age-uhit. – VIII. The function of the age-unit. – IX. The ceremonies for the institution of the age-class. – X. The general pattern of the initiation ceremonies. – XI. The prophet and the institution of the age-classe. – XII. The relationship of class-members. – XIII. Conclusions.

I – INTRODUCTION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

In the October issue, 1952, of *Africa*, the *Journal of the International African Institute*, I published a critical evaluation of the age-system of the Nilo-Hamitic Peoples. That evaluation was based on an analysis of the existing anthropological literature of which the present paper offers the section on the Masai. It will be followed, I hope, by other papers on the other Nilo-Hamites. In the last few years intense fieldresearch has been going on, and new material is being made available. This will make it possible to fill in the gaps and complete the picture of the Nilo-Hamitic age-system. All this analytical work should be preliminary to a deeper study of Nilo-Hamites' social and religious organisation and possibly provide a basis for defining their cultural-historical relation with such other peoples as the Bantu-Hamites of East Africa, the Kikuyu, the Kamba, etc.

The literature on the Masai is comparatively voluminous, though much of it is irrelevant and unreliable and makes reading confusing and any analytical work complicate. I shall not compile here a full bibliography, but limit my indication to the actual works which deal with the age system and a few others I have used. I wish to thank

2: Bernardi E, M-4 (no date) 1955 FL12 Masai FL12

127 my Professor, ISAAK SCHAPERA of the London School of Economics. Through his good offices I was able to see some Manuscripts on the Masai from the Secretariat, Nairobi, as recorded in the following bibliography.

113 ANONYMOUS n. d., *Notes on social organisation etc.*, in *Masai Reserve MS.*, pp. 12, *NAD.* 19. IV, no. 49. Nairobi).

— 1908 *Memorandum on the Masai, their origin, customs, life, ornaments, and language* (*MS.*, pp. 31. *NAD.* 19. IV, no. 46. Nairobi). Cited as *MS.*, no. 46.

BAGGE, S., *The circumcision ceremony among the Naivasha Masai*, in *J. R. A. I.*, 34, 1904, pp. 167-169.

BERNARDI B., *The age-system of the Nilo-Hamitic Peoples*, in *Africa*, 22, 1952, pp. 316-332.

BRYAN M. A., TUCKER A. N., *Distribution of the Nilotic and Nilo-Hamitic Languages of Africa. Linguistic Analyses*, in *I. A. I.*, Oxford 1948, pp. 60.

DAWSON J. V., *Notes on* (a) *Engapata ceremony*, (b) *milk drinking ceremony*, (c) *Ol Kerembi*, *MS.*, pp. 15., *NAD.* no. 169, 1933.

DUNDAS K. R., *Notes on the Tribes inhabiting the Baringo district — British East Africa*, in *J. R. A. I.*, 40, 1910, pp. 49-72.

— *The Wamanga and other tribes of the Elgon district. British East Africa*, in *J. R. A. I.*, 43, 1913, pp. 19-75.

FOSBROOKE H. A., *An Administrative Survey of the Masai Social System*, in *T. N. & R.*, 26, 1948, pp. 1-50.

FOX D. STORES, *Further notes on the Masai of Kenya Colony*, in *J. R. A. I.*, 60, 1930, pp. 447-465.

— *Notes on Mariage customs among the Masai*, in *J. E. A. U. N. H. S.*, 42-43, 1931, pp. 183-192.

HAILEY Lord, *Native Administration in the British African Territories. Part I – East Africa: Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika*, London 1950.

HINDE S. L., *The Last of the Masai*, London 1901.

HOBLEY C. W., *Eastern Uganda. An ethnological Survey*, London 1902, pp. 96.

— *Ethnology of A-Kamba and other East African tribes*, Cambridge 1910, pp. XVI-172.

HOLLIS A. C., *The Masai. Their Language and Folklore*, Oxford 1905, pp. XXVIII-359.

— *The Nandi. Their Language and Folklore*, Oxford 1909, pp. XI-328.

— *A note on the Masai system of relationship and other matters connected therewith*, in *J. R. A. I.*, 40, 1910, pp. 473-482.

[p. ii]

114
[127] With the exception of Chapter II., the matter contained in this Administrative and Political Record of the Masai has been drawn from official papers. Chapter II. has been compiled from early reports and various published books, and assistance in enlarging and in checking detail for this chapter has been obtained from Mr. Ainsworth, who has personal knowledge of the early history of administrative contact with the tribe.

[102] The maps which have been distributed where necessary throughout the text have occasioned considerable difficulty, as a large part of the Masai Reserve is unsurveyed. The more general maps must be regarded only as illustrative, and it is probable that much of the detail is inaccurate. The boundary of the Masai Reserve still awaits demarcation, and the line purporting to show its position is therefore tentative.

[104] A mass of inconsistency in the spelling of tribal and geographical names permeates the official records, and the spelling adopted here, selected as that most constantly employed, makes no pretension to phonological or linguistic accuracy.

G. R. SANDFORD.

NAIROBI,
October 22nd, 1918.

Bk22
070

4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P. iii]
[P. iv is blank]

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE administration of the Masai tribe has always been one of the most interesting native problems of the East Africa Protectorate. The Masai occupy a reserve nine million acres in extent, which is at present fully stocked up: if water facilities were improved, not only could the number of cattle be very materially increased, but the reserve could also hold cattle of a better quality bred from imported stock. The potential value of the Masai Reserve as a home for cattle is enormous.

The lessons of the past may help us to solve the problems of the future. With this end in view, Sir Charles Bowring, when administering the Protectorate, instructed Mr. G. R. Sandford to prepare a short History of the administration of the tribe up to date.

The result of Mr. Sandford's researches is the very valuable compilation to which I am glad to be able to attach this foreword. The particulars have been drawn from official records, and the historical portion of the work may be accepted as an authentic summary of past events. Conditions as they existed in October, 1918, together with the steps that were being taken to deal with them, are accurately portrayed, while illustrative maps, compiled by Mr. Sandford himself, are distributed where necessary throughout the text.

The volume forms a valuable addition to the records of the Protectorate.

EDWARD NORTHEY.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MOMBASA,
August 31*st*, 1918.

19: Talbot K-4,5 (1956-1962)1964 FL12 Masai FL12

OUTLINE OF THE ECOLOGICAL HISTORY OF WESTERN MASAILAND

126 Methods

This interpretation is based on two sets of data. The first comes from our field work. It is clearly possible to determine the recent grazing history of an area from examination of its present condition. It is merely one step further to carry such a determination to a longer period when woody vegetation is involved.

When we had learned the patterns of vegetation succession and their influences, it became apparent that there had been considerable changes in the vegetation of the study area within the past century. Cedar forest, for example, clearly covered a much larger area in the recent past and the stumps were there to prove it. Much of the closed woodland or bushland north of the Serengeti had been relatively open grassland, judging by the pattern and age of the woody formations. Consequently we made a map of what the vegetation of the area should have been about fifty years ago.

127 Several months later, while searching through the library of the Geological Survey Department at Dodoma, Tanganyika, we came upon a copy of the supplement to Jaeger's work of 1913. In it were his

(27) maps, including his vegetation map which we had not known existed. This map covered the study area from the Ngorongoro Highlands north into the Loita Plateau and the Mara Plains. The exciting thing was that it looked like our reconstruction.

Our second set of data basic to the ecological history that follows consists of a series of pieces of information gathered from the various sources cited above. Jaeger's map is the most complete, but we have tried to gather evidence from a number of other sources to confirm or modify our field interpretation. Fortunately, the available data appears to confirm it.

One example illustrates the oblique way we have come upon key pieces of information.

Grant (1957) while discussing Masai administrative boundaries notes that a German boundary is based on a hill plotted on their map that does not exist on the ground. The hill involved is called Nyamagati and is shown to be in the northern part of the open Serengeti Plain. We knew of no such hill, and Grant for several years was a District Officer in charge of that part of Masailand so he should know. Yet we had found German maps consistantly accurate in other matters. Consequently

19: Talbot K-4,5 (1956-1962)1964 FL12 Masai FL12

127

we collected maps to check on the matter.

The German map to which he refers (German East Africa Series, 1915), shows a Njamagati hill or promentory with a spring. This point is also shown on the very accurate map of Jaeger (1913) and is carried on the 1946 War Office map of the area. On two more recent sketch maps (Geol. Surv. Dept., 1959; Swynnerton, 1957) a kopje or inselberg called Soit a (or e) Motonyi appears in the area. The most recent survey of the area (Geol. Surv. Dept., 1958) shows a Soit le Motnyi kopje but 3.75 miles north east is an apparently larger kopje in the precise coordinates shown by Jaeger (op. cit.). We have camped at that kopje. It once had a spring but most of the vegetation of the kopje has been cut or burned and the spring was dry when we visited it in 1956, 1960, and 1961. But today the kopje is in a thick Acacia woodland, not in the open plains. Because of the trees it is hard to see until one is almost at it. With a clear view unobstructed by Acacias the kopje would be a significant landmark. And this it was when the Germans came this way. According to Jaeger (1913) when he visited this area there was open grass steppe for about 18 miles airline north of the kopje. Now this whole area is a closed Acacia woodland.

19: Talbot E-4,5 (1956-1962)1964 FL12 Masai FL12

*122 for Technical Cooperation in Africa South of the Sahara) provided greatly appreciated facilities and assistance. Generous supplies of photographic equipment, films, and developing services were provided by the National Geographic Society. Mr. Noel Simon, Chairman of the Kenya Wild Life Society, generously furnished facilities, information and hospitality. Dr. R. Newing, Director of Instrumentation Ltd., Nairobi, aided the project with *114 supply and repair of instruments. Mr. H. St. J. Grant of the Government of Tanganyika, for his help with references and provision of his unpublished material on the Masai in the Serengeti. H.J. Van Rensburg, Pasture Research Officer, Tengeru, Tanganyika, for advice and references on range management problems. Mr. C. Chaffin of Oroville, California, joined us during January and February, 1960, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Root of Nairobi periodically joined us on safari, and their assistance with the field work was appreciated at those times.

• 127 Although very little information was available on the ecology of the study area or its wildlife when the present study was initiated in 1956, brief ecological reconnaissances of two parts of the area had been carried out between then and 1959 when we started the major period of field work. The excellent report by Dr. Pearsall (1957) on his two month survey of the then

19: Talbot K-4,5 (1956-1962)1964 FL12 Masai FL12

127 Serengeti National Park has proved very helpful in that part of the study area. The report by Dr. Darling (1960) on his ten weeks' reconnaissance in the Mara was not yet published when we left for Africa in 1959, but he very generously gave us a first draft. This wonderfully perceptive reconnaissance has veen of great value to us, and we are deeply grateful to Dr. Darling for giving us his report as well as for his advice, guidance, and encouragement throughout the study.

We should also acknowledge the outstanding value of one other reference. Dr. F. Jaeger led a German scientific expedition to the Ngorongoro Highlands about 1906. In addition to geological and botanical work in the highlands, he visited much of Western Masailand. His maps have been the finest available for the area, and his descriptions and maps of the vegetation (Jaeger, 1913) have provided a fixed reference point in history for part of the region. They have been of very great value to us, particularly to our considerations of the historical ecology of the area.

We also wish to thank Mr. A. Brooks who was most generous with his time and advice and who also kindly loaned us the typescript of his then unpublished report on the Thomson Gazelle (1961).

19: Talbot E-4,5 (1956-1962)1964 FL12 Masai FL12

*114

On our arrival in Africa in June, 1959, Dr. H. Heady of the University of California at Berkeley, was just completing a year's study of range management in East Africa. We are extremely grateful to him for many forms of assistance, involving, among other things, grass identification, sampling techniques, hospitality, and introductions. His publication on Range Management in East Africa (1960) has also been of great value to us.

[127]

In many of the above acknowledgements, we should have also included the wives of the men involved. A few, such as Eleanor Heady, Joan Mousley, Selma Payne, and Joyce Stewart, joined their husbands on safari with us and took an active part in the field work. The majority, although not scientists, helped us in a great many other appreciated ways, and we wish to express our deep gratitude for their many kindnesses.

We have also not yet mentioned the African helpers who are so important to much work in East Africa. Although we usually travelled alone or with one helper, most cooperative work both in the field and the laboratories relied to some degree on African help. The personnel involved included Game Scouts, Park Rangers, Veterinary Scouts, Laboratory Assistants, Clerks, Drivers,